

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sewing apparatus where sewing is performed by causing a thread to remain in a workpiece, comprising:

a needle that moves up and down to pass the thread into the workpiece;

a workpiece moving device that relatively moves the workpiece with respect to the needle; and

a holding member that holds at least a part of the thread connecting two consecutive stitch points in accordance with a relative movement between the needle and the workpiece.

2. The sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a distance between the needle and the holding member is smaller than a minimum pitch between the two consecutive stitch points.

3. The sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding member is made of a hollow member having an inside wall surface that forms a passing hole through which the needle passes.

4. The sewing apparatus according to claim 3, where the inside wall surface has a uniform wall thickness.

5. The sewing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the holding member holds the thread at the wall thickness.

6. The sewing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the holding member has a substantially circular shape.

7. The sewing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the holding member holds at least a part of the thread between one stitch point and succeeding stitch point.

8. The sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding member is detachably attached to the sewing apparatus.

9. The sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding member holds the workpiece between two consecutive stitch points.

10. The sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding member is a presser foot.

11. A sewing cartridge for use with a sewing apparatus in which a thread is caused to remain in a workpiece by a thread holding force of the workpiece while sewing is performed by moving the workpiece, the sewing cartridge comprising:

a needle that can pass through the workpiece;

a thread storage member that stores the thread to be supplied to the needle;

a thread guiding member that guides the thread in a thread passing route from the thread storage member to the needle;

a thread holding member that holds at least a part of the thread connecting two consecutive stitch points in accordance with a relative movement between the needle and the workpiece.

12. The sewing cartridge according to claim 11, wherein the thread holding member has a needle passing hole through which the needle passes.

13. The sewing cartridge according to claim 12, wherein the thread holding member is formed in a substantially circular shape.

14. The sewing cartridge according to claim 13, wherein the thread holding member is made of a hollow member having an inside wall surface that forms the needle passing hole through which the needle passes.

15. The sewing cartridge according to claim 14, wherein the inside wall surface has a uniform wall thickness.

16. A sewing cartridge that forms a stitch point on a workpiece and is detachably attached to a sewing apparatus where sewing is performed by causing a thread to remain in the workpiece, comprising:

a needle that moves vertically and passes through the workpiece;

a needle cover that covers at least a tip of the needle;

a thread storage member that stores the thread to be supplied to the needle;

a thread guiding member that guides the thread from the thread storage member to the needle; and

a presser foot that holds at least a part of the thread from a stitch point where a stitch has been made to a next stitch point where a stitch is being made.

17. The sewing cartridge according to claim 16, wherein the presser foot has a needle passing hole through which the needle passes.

18. The sewing cartridge according to claim 16, wherein the presser foot is made of a hollow member having an inside wall surface that forms the needle passing hole through which the needle passes.

19. The sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding member is vertically movable.

20. The sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding member is retractably positioned over the tip of the needle.